

Novena prayers 2020.

The categories are:

Day 1: Families

Day 2: Kirk

Day 3: Children & elderly

Day 4: Vulnerable

Day 5: Businesses

Day 6: Government and those in leadership

Day 7: Reducing lockdown

Day 8: National

Day 9: Global.

Day 1: Families

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we lift up to You today our families. We thank You for them and pray for Your blessing and protection for them. In these difficult times, we ask You for Your guiding and guarding. Nearly all of us will have some members of our families who do not yet know You, and we pray especially for them, that they may come to know and love and serve You. Please bless those of our families who are further away from us and keep them in Your care until we can be able to see them again. We also remember families who are apart just now, possibly because of Coronavirus or for other reasons, and we ask that You would bind them together in Your love. We pray that we may know Your comforting presence very close to us, especially in times of greatest need and we ask this in the name of Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

## Day 2: Kirk

Heavenly Father, today we bring our Kirks before You. To many, Church will be a building that we visit, but we ask that You would help us to remember that we are Your Church - Your eyes and ears, Your hands and feet. Bless us with wisdom and help each one of us to let Your light shine in and through us. We pray for growth and unity both in the Church and between different denominations. Thank You, that at this difficult time with Church buildings closed, different ways of worshiping and serving You are developing fast and many more people are turning to You. Help us to be ready to serve You in whatever way You call us to do. In Jesus' precious name we pray, Amen

## Day 3: Children and elderly

Dearest Jesus, we call out to You today to bless our young and our old - two groups of us who must be finding our present circumstances especially hard to cope with and understand. Please bless all who are caring for them and give them patience and understanding and health and strength. We also remember all who are new parents, or are about to become parents. At a time that can be anxious anyway, present circumstances can make it worse and some are unable to have loved ones with them at their time of need. Let them know Your presence constantly with them. We remember, too, those who are nearing the end of their lives, some who are already lonely and now finding it even worse with present restrictions. Let them know Your love and comfort with them at all times. Please, Lord, guide us indeed to be Your eyes and ears, Your hands and feet. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## Day 4: Vulnerable

Dear Lord, since earliest times, You have been the defender of the vulnerable. In times past it was those with no family to support or care for them (widows and orphans). In more recent times, as society has grown busier and more families are living further apart, care has fallen to other groups in society. Now, with the present pandemic, more people are in need of support - those who are caring for ones with disabilities (sometimes severe) and have lost support and respite services, those who have worries over their source of income, and those struggling with the effects of being in isolation. Support agencies have had a dramatic increase in requests for help, both for mental health problems and also, sadly, from those who are being abused. Lord, we lift up to You all who are struggling in any of these ways and ask that they may turn to You, that they may know Your comforting presence with them and Your loving provision for them. Help us to be ready to help any who You place in our paths. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

#### Day 5: Businesses

Provider God, today we ask your blessing on the workplace and all those involved in providing for us. Many are really struggling now and predictions are that up to 20% of businesses may not open again after a prolonged lockdown. Some are struggling because of falling short of any help that is currently on offer. Others are wondering how they will be able to keep workers on after furlough is finished and perhaps business will be limited with distancing restrictions. Our own island home is particularly vulnerable, being so dependent on tourism. Dear God, we pray that all who are struggling may turn to You in the confident hope of Your provision, strengthening and guidance. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

#### Day 6: Government and those in leadership

King of Kings and Lords of Lords, we turn to You today and lift up before You our Government and all who are in positions of leadership and power. We pray first that we might be blessed with ones who know You - Your leading and guiding, but most of all we pray that they may be blessed with Your wisdom, because that is what we need right now. We are all human and are fallible, and leadership brings huge responsibility and room for error. Please bless us all with the ability to learn from our mistakes and to know and be obedient to Your will for us in the future. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## Day 7: Reducing lockdown

Wonderful Counsellor, today we especially need Your wisdom and understanding because today there will be discussions and most likely decisions taken about coming out of lockdown. Give our Governments and Councils the ability to judge wisely the balance between the need to keep us safe and healthy and the need to help our economy. Please heal and strengthen all who have been ill and comfort all who have lost loved ones. And please comfort and provide for all who are worried about their source of income. Mighty God, empower us that we may all have the forbearance and intelligence to work through these times helping one another where we can. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## Day 8: National

Everlasting Father, we come to You today and pray Your blessing on our United Kingdom. We pray Your blessing upon each and every person, from the youngest to the oldest, and ask that more and more may come to know and love and serve You. We pray Your blessing for families and family life, especially just now, and we pray for workers and the workplace, for Your provision and strengthening in these times of difficulty and need. We pray for Your Church, that it may soon be safe for us to meet together again in Your name and thanking You for Your provision in the meantime. We pray for a safe return to schools, Colleges and Universities and we pray for hospitals, both patients and staff and all carers, especially for healing and protection in the care homes, thanking You for all those who have given so much in the service of others. We remember too and pray Your protection over our emergency services. We pray for our Councils and Governments, for Your wisdom in decisions that will be taken in the days ahead and for Your provision for any that are struggling financially, again asking for Your wisdom in any decisions taken. Dear Father, bind us together in Your love and help us to be there for one another as opportunities are given. We ask all this in Jesus' name, Amen.

## Day 9: Global

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, today we pray "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven". We lift our world before You and pray for each new life that will enter it today, each one that will leave it today and for everyone in between, that none may enter or live or leave without a blessing pronounced over them. We pray for all who are sick or bereaved, lonely, lost or confused. For those who are abused, those who have suffered marriage break down, or home break up, or war or unrest or disaster, both natural and man made and we also pray for any who have been the cause of any of this. May they come to know and love and serve You too. We pray for all who go out in Your name, asking for Your guidance and protection for them. We pray too for all those just now who have been displaced and are at particular risk with Coronavirus. There are so many, Lord, who need Your special touch. Prince of peace, deliver us from evil and let Your peace and Your love be poured out upon us all. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.